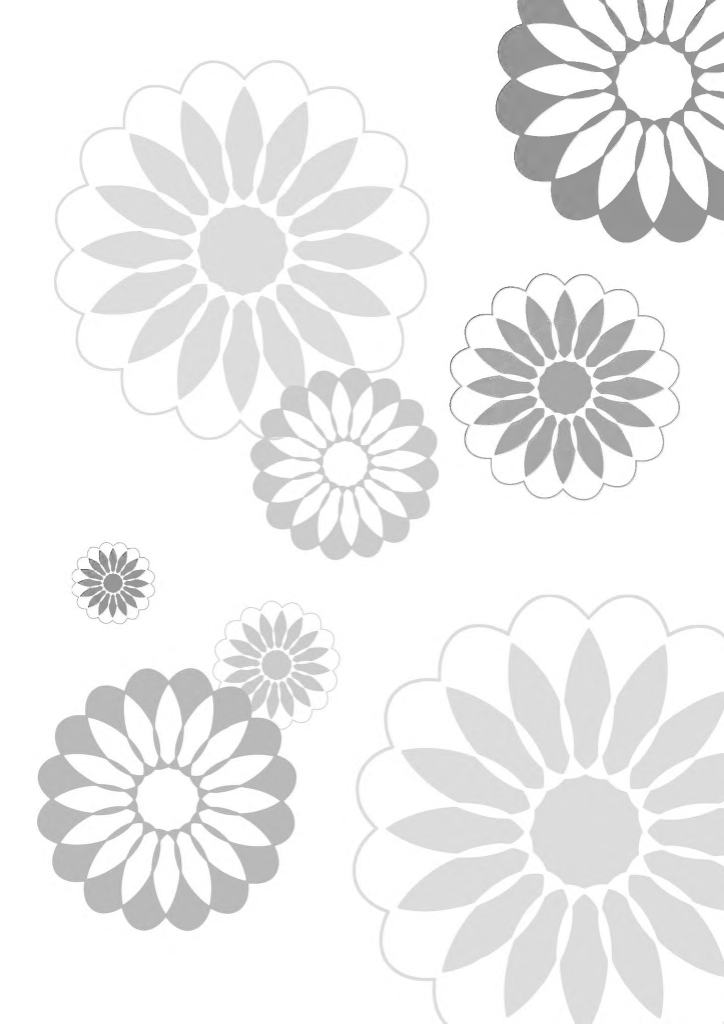
Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ

22

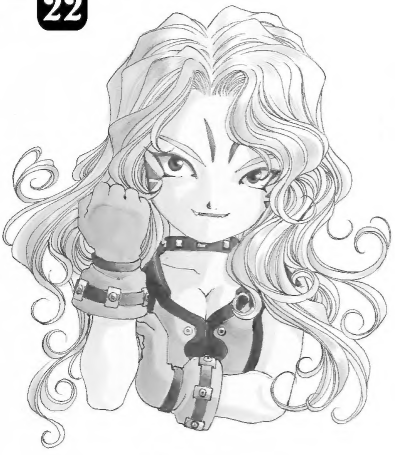
藤島康介

KOSUKE FUJISHIMA



Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ 22



STORY AND ART BY
Kosuke Fujishima

TRANSLATION BY
Dana Lewis AND Lea Hernandez

LETTERING AND TOUCH-UP BY
Susie Lee AND Betty Dong
WITH Tom2K

DARK HORSE MANGA

CHAPTER 136
Let's Make a Deal 3

CHAPTER 137
Sister Act..... 31

CHAPTER 138
Maybe . . . ? 53

CHAPTER 139
Wicked Game..... 83

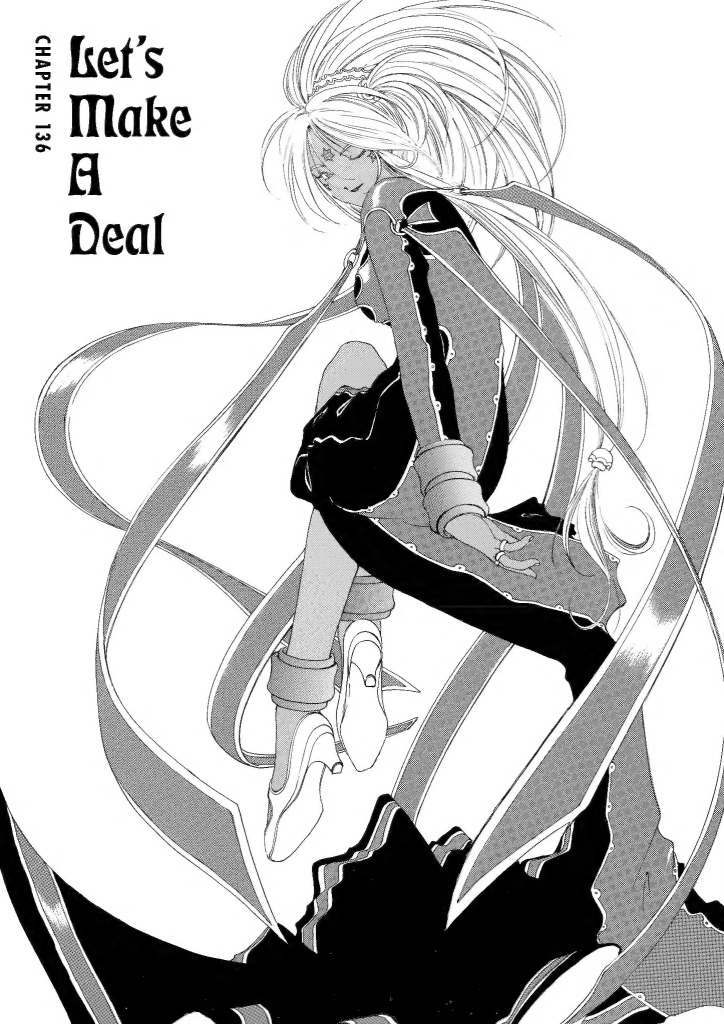
CHAPTER 140
Morisato Residence,
Rooms to Let 107

CHAPTER 141
Sparkle in Her Eyes 131

Letters to the Enchantress 160

CHAPTER 136

Let's Make A Deal

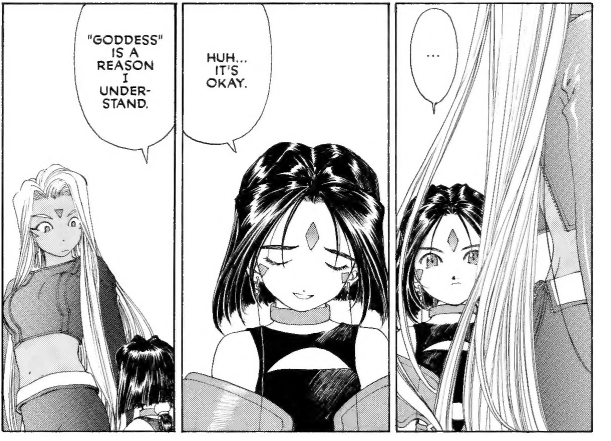


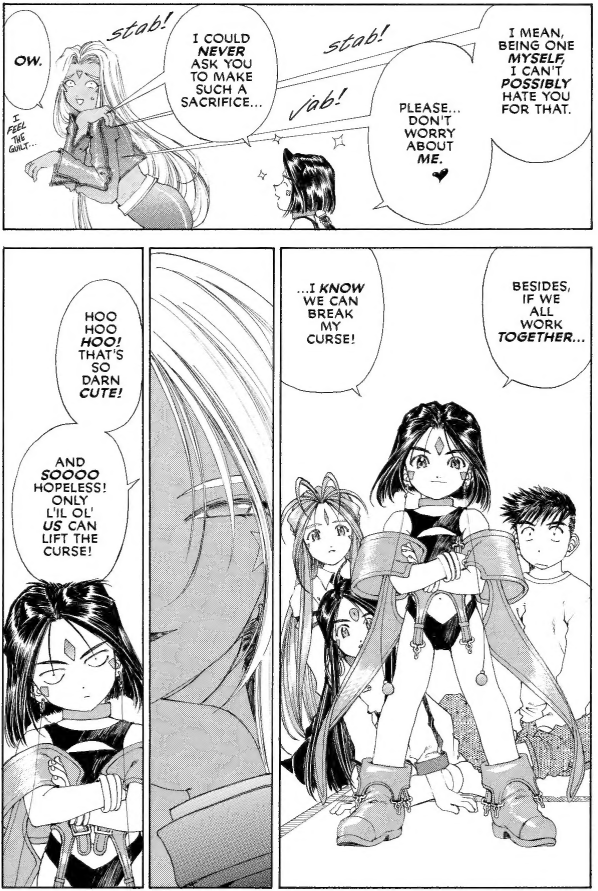
...NO.
YOU HEARD ME...

EVEN THOUGH I'M *HALF DEMON*...
...I'M A *GODDESS*, TOO.

I *WON'T* COMPROMISE THAT.
THAT'S WHY I CAN'T ACCEPT...

...FOR ANY REASON.


"GODDESS" IS A REASON I UNDER-STAND.
HUH... IT'S OKAY.
...


OW.
I FEEL THE GUILT...
stab!
I COULD NEVER ASK YOU TO MAKE SUCH A SACRIFICE...
stab!
jab!
PLEASE... DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
I MEAN, BEING ONE MYSELF, I CAN'T POSSIBLY HATE YOU FOR THAT.
HOO HOO HOO! THAT'S SO DARN CUTE!
AND SOOOO HOPELESS! ONLY L'IL OL' US CAN LIFT THE CURSE!
...I KNOW WE CAN BREAK MY CURSE!
BESIDES, IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER...

OH? AND HOW DO YOU KNOW?!
BECAUSE, DARLING! NIDHOGG, THE DEMON REALM OPERATING SYSTEM, IS LOCKED...
...WITH OUR PERSONAL PASSWORD!
URD ...?
W-WHAT?
um....

INSTEAAAD...
!?
--I *WON'T* ASK URD TO COME OVER TO OUR SIDE!
OKAY, LET'S TRY *THIS*--
...SHE GRANTS US ONE *ITSY*-BITSY *TEENY*-TINY LI'L *FAVOR*. IS THAT SO *BAD?*

WHAT KIND OF FAVOR?
IT'S OUR SE-CRET! ❤
URD, DON'T! WHAT IF THE FAVOR IS THAT YOU COME OVER ANYWAY?!
AND YOU COULDN'T SAY NO--

KSHING
PONK
PONK
SHING

BOOM!
PONK
BOINT
SHNNG
HMPH.
PING
PING
NOT BAD.

YOU MAY TRY AGAIN, IF YOU WISH.
BUT...
...IT TOOK ALL YOU *HAD*... DIDN'T IT, DARLING?

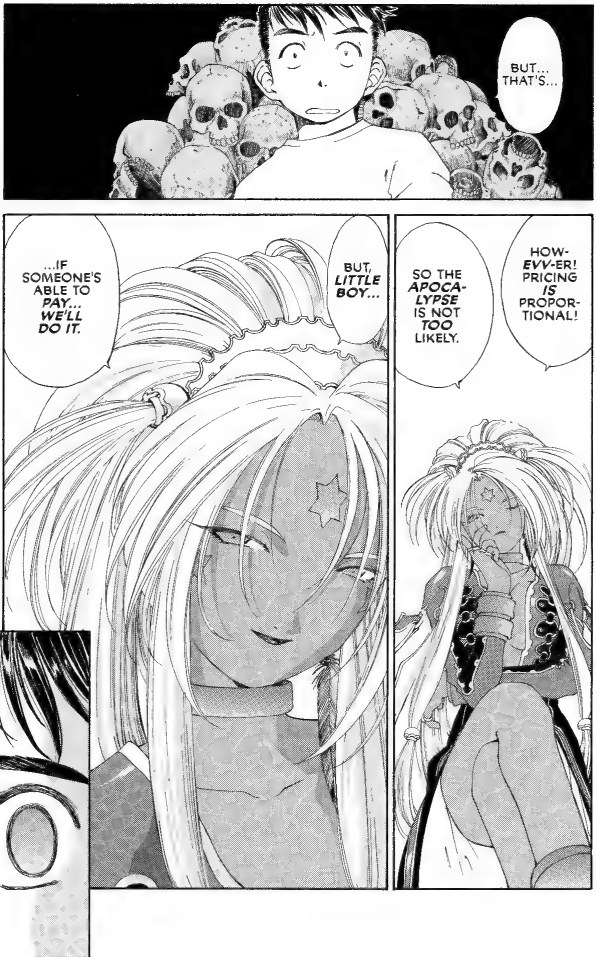
MM.
I HAVE A FEELING YOU'D GIVE IT MORE THAN YOU'VE GOT.
OH... NOT TODAY.
HMPH
PF

FREEE
BOOF
NOW, KEIICHI.
...DON'T YOU DARE QUESTION OUR HONOR AGAIN.

AND WE ALWAYS KEEP OUR CONTRACTS.
OUR WORD IS A CONTRACT.
...FOR THE RIGHT PRICE!
WE'LL GRANT ANY-ONE'S WISH...
WE JUST LUUUV THE SMART ONES!
WHY, EXACTLY?
CONTRACTS DEPEND ON TRUST!

...WE CAN DO THAT, *TOO*...

IF YOU WANT TO *DESTROY THE WORLD*...


BUT... THAT'S...
HOW-EVV-ER! PRICING IS PROPOR-TIONAL!
SO THE APOCA-LYPSE IS NOT TOO LIKELY.
BUT, LITTLE BOY...
...IF SOMEONE'S ABLE TO PAY... WE'LL DO IT.

NOW... WHERE *WERE* WE?
OH. *YES.*
URD, HONEY... WE'RE *WAITING.*
...
OKAY.

BUT I'LL DO *NOTHING* UNBECOMING TO A *GODDESS.*
!!
AS IF WE'D EVER *ASK!*
WE *SWEAR* TO *GODDESS!*
OH... LIKE I CAN TRUST *THAT!*

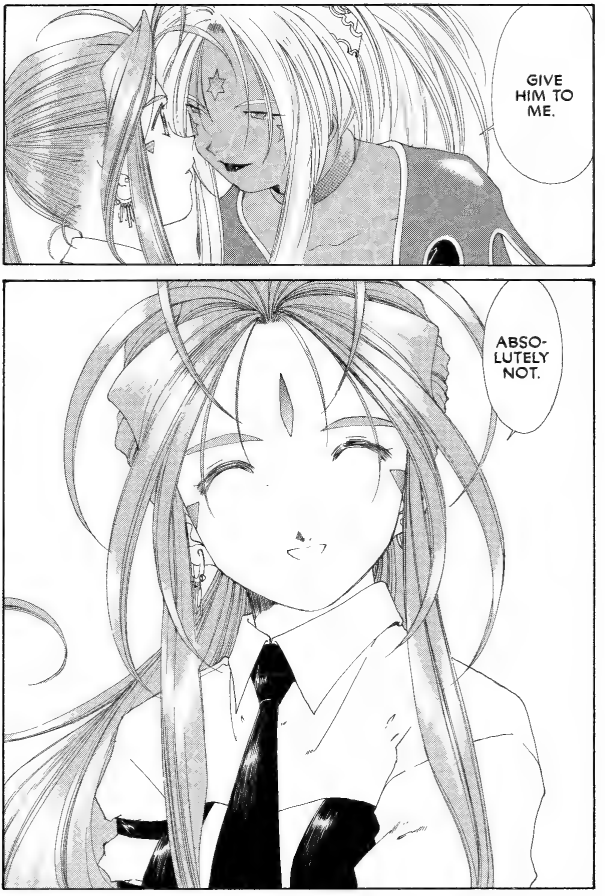
YEAH, NOW YOU DO.
...YOU DIDN'T WANT TO CALL HER.
I CAN SEE WHY...
DRAMA?!
WELL...
...ENOUGH DRAMA. EVERYONE OUTSIDE!
URD?
DON'T YOU LIKE YOUR MOTHER?
...HMM.

IT'S NOT ABOUT "LIKE."
WELL
?

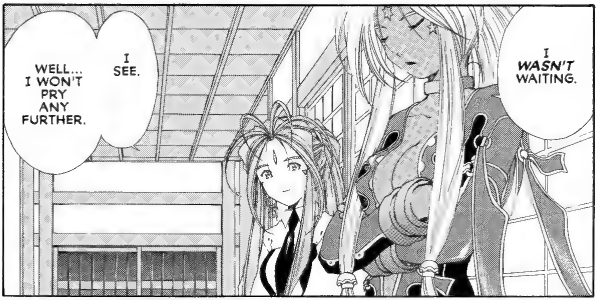
CAN WE TRUST HILD?

WHAT? ?
BE-SIDES...
DEMONS ARE VERY STRICT ABOUT CONTRACTS.
OH, I THINK SO.
BELL-CHAAAAN?
SHE--
OKAY.
C'MERE A SEC, HM?

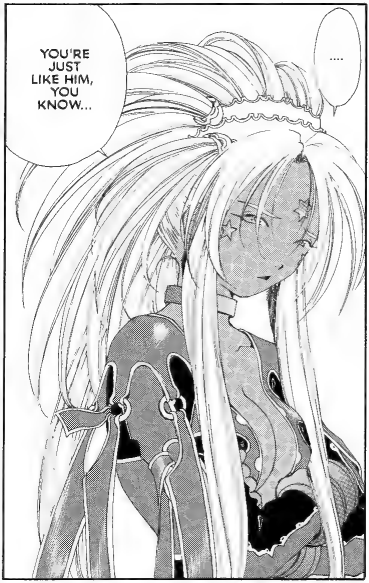
--WHO'D GIVE *LIP* TO THE *DEMON BOSS!*
EVEN, ADMITTEDLY, FROM IGNORANCE OF MY POWER TO SMITE HIM WHERE HE STANDS.
THERE *AREN'T* MANY HUMANS--
WHAT'RE THEY TALKING ABOUT?
YES, HILD?
THAT KEIICHI--
RRROWR!


GIVE HIM TO ME.
ABSO-LUTELY NOT.

WHY I *DUMPED* HIM? WELL--
MAY I ASK YOU SOME-THING?
HILD?
OH, YOU'RE TOUGH.
WHY DID YOU WAIT FOR *URD* TO CALL *YOU?*
NO.


I WASN'T WAITING.
I SEE.
WELL... I WON'T PRY ANY FURTHER.

WHERE'S BELL-DANDY?
...THAT I COULDN'T STAND.
LIKE THE SIDE OF HIM...


....
YOU'RE JUST LIKE HIM, YOU KNOW...

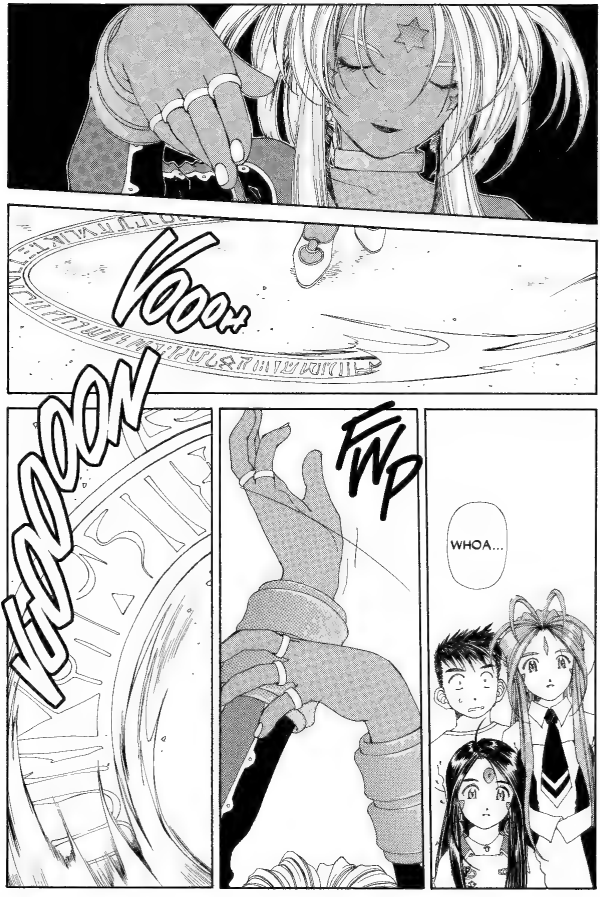
DEFINITELY.
...ARE THEY REALLY?
...BETWEEN URD AND ME.
THINGS ARE PERFECT...

OH MY GODDESS!
HILD

CHAPTER 137

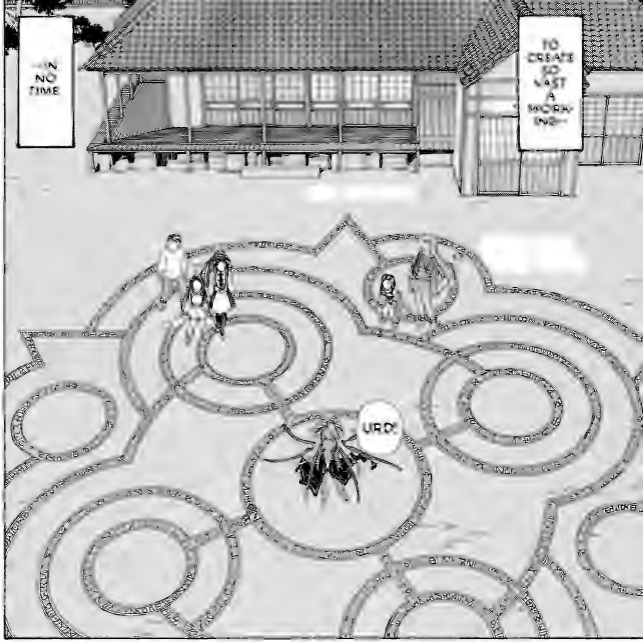
Sister Act

SHOW-TIME!
O-KAY!


Vooo+
VOOO

PICK UP YOUR FEET, DEAR!
TUT, TUT!
HEY!
SHSSSSX
GRR...

WHOOOSH
I HATE TO ADMIT IT...
...BUT THAT *WAS* IMPRESSIVE.

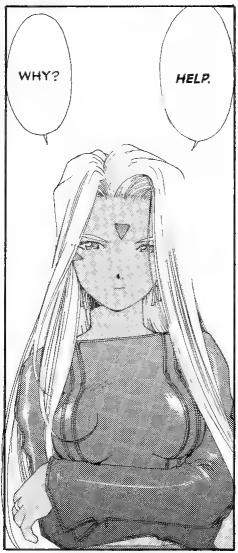

IN NO TIME
TO CREATE SO LAST A
URD!

FOR SHAME!
INTIMIDATED?

...TO HELP US.
AND JUST WHEN WE NEED HER...

WHO'S SUPPOSED TO DO THE GODDESS PARTS, hm?
BECAUSE WE DON'T WANT TO SING FIVE HUNDRED AND TWELVE VERSES ALL ALONE!

SHE!
IS!
SUCH A SILLY!


WHY?
HELP.

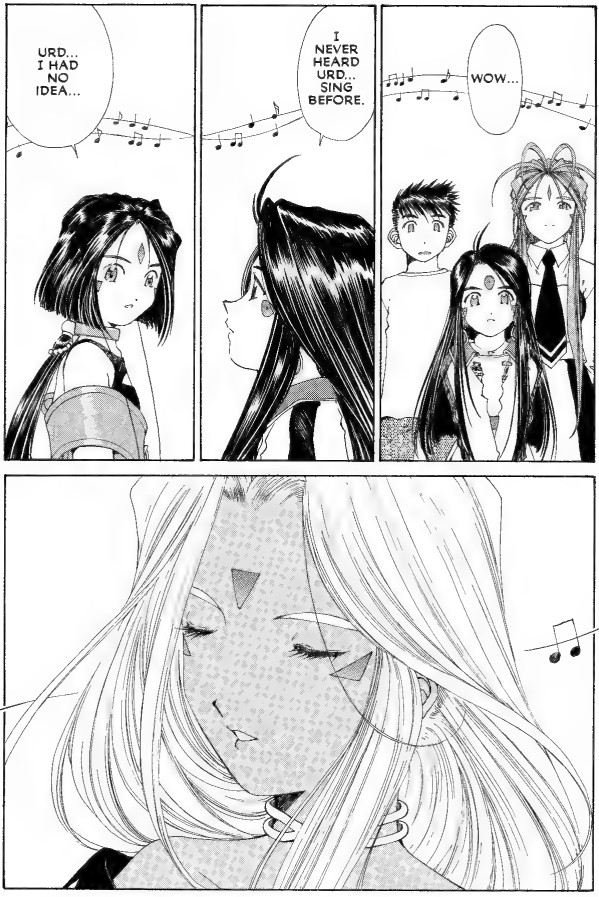
WAIT! NO!
IS IT THAT... YOU CANNOT?!
INCAPABLE? OUR OWN DAUGHTER? CHILD OF THE LEADER OF THE DEMON WORLD?!
NO! SHE CAN-- BUT S-SHE WON'T!
LIKE, OH MY GAWWWDDD!
I'LL DO IT IF YOU STOP THAT RIGHT NOW. AND STOP SWEARING.

BUT, FOR THE *GODDESS PARTS*...
...WOULDN'T *BELL* BE BETTER?
TSK! OUR CHILD IS *SLOW.*
ONLY *YOU* WILL DO.
BOTH *GODDESS* AND *DEMON.*
!

IF *YOU* CAN'T SING BOTH PARTS...
...WHO CAN?
NOT TO SAY...
...YOUR SINGING ISN'T *LOVELY,* BELL, DEAR.
IT'S OKAY.
I LOVE URD'S SINGING.

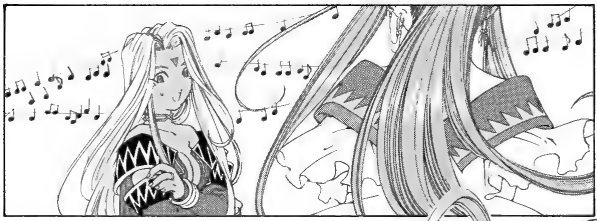
SHALL WE?
HEH.

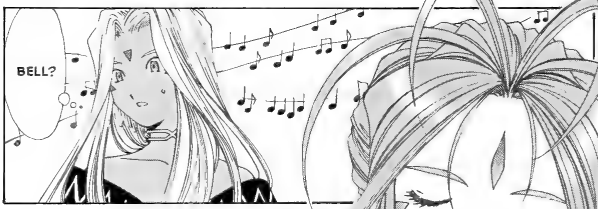
MON DIEU...
...THE PROGRAMME! I CAN SEE IT!

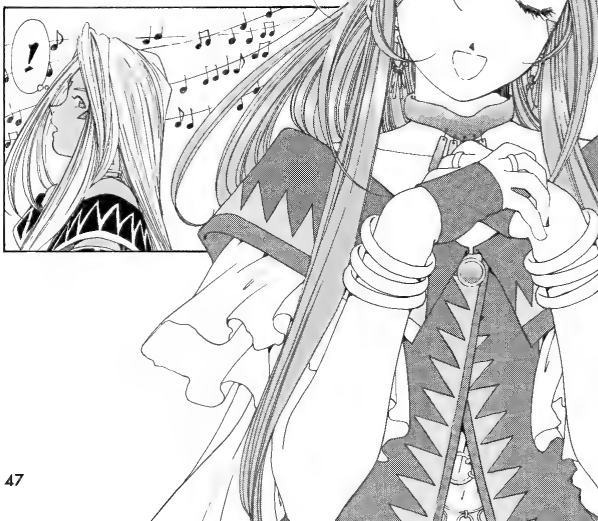

URD... I HAD NO IDEA...
I NEVER HEARD URD... SING BEFORE.
WOW...

MORE LIKE WE EXPECTED.
VERY NICE, DEAR.
SHF SHF
KATCHA
LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN KEEP THIS SONG BALANCED!
SHE'S UPPED THE DEMON PART!

I CAN'T... KEEP UP THE GODDESS PORTION!
I'M BEING PULLED UNDER!
IT ISN'T FAIR--
?!




BELL?

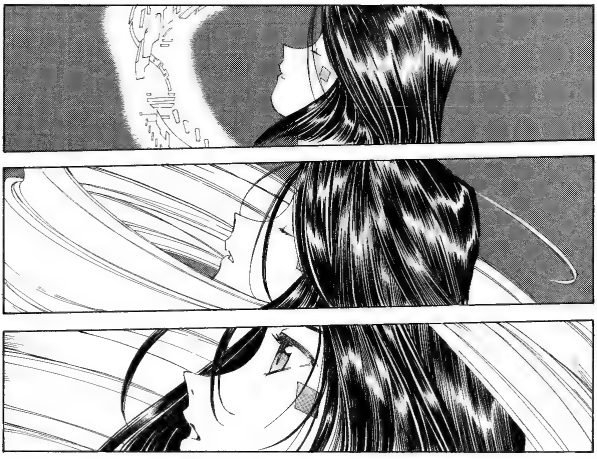

!

IT'S A SONG *WORTH* SINGING, DEARS.
INCROY-ABLE...!
SKULD ?!

THAT SONG ...!
OH!
I C-CAN'T STOP SHAKING...
IN MY HEART... I CAN FEEL THEM ALL...
AIR...
WATER...
THE EARTH...

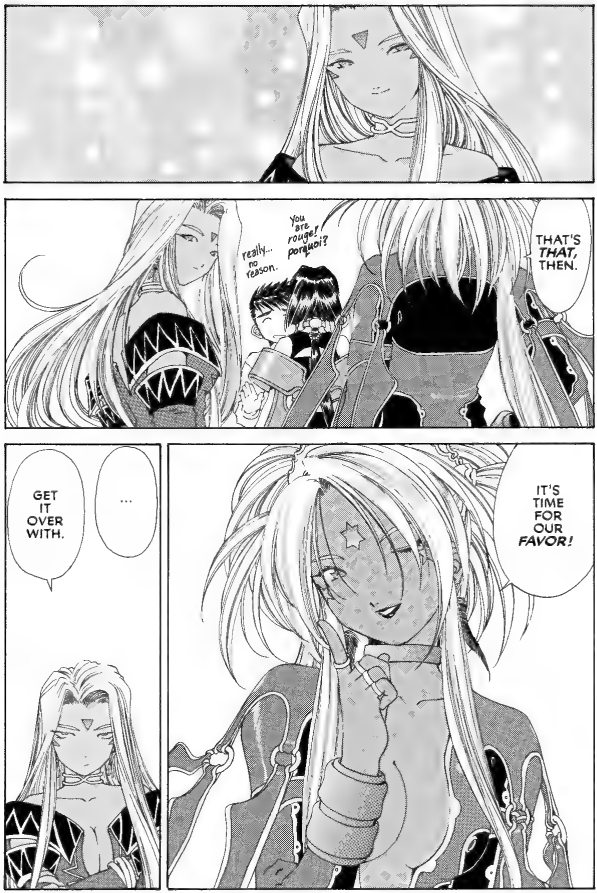
CHAPTER 138

Maybe . . . ?

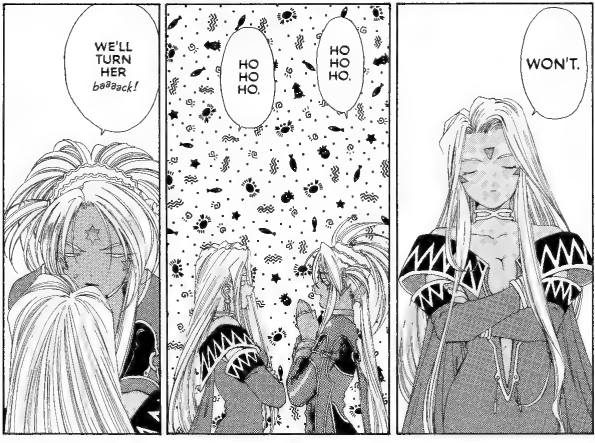


WHEN SHE GOT SMALLER, HER CLOTHES... SO...
WAIT!
EMER-GENCY!

ME AGAIN!
ahem
WHAT?
....

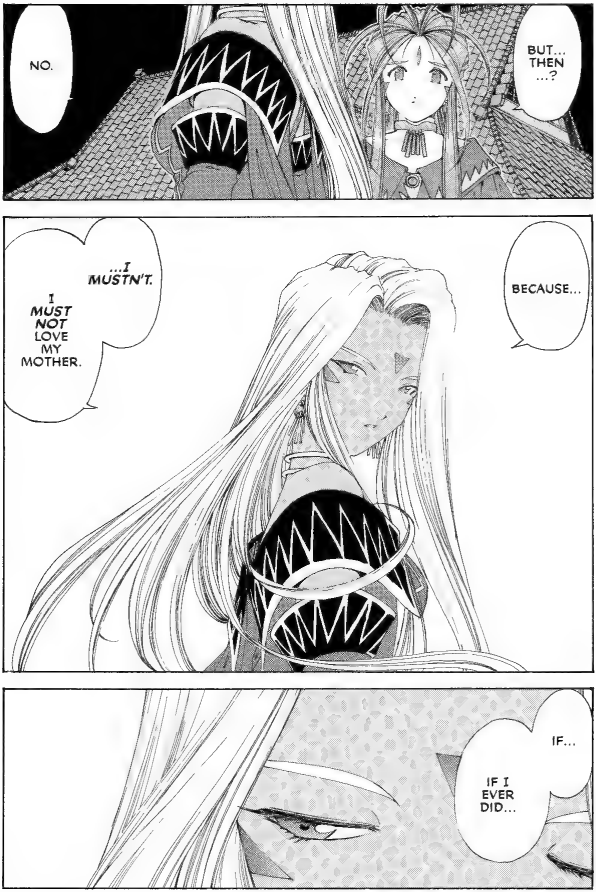

THAT'S *THAT*, THEN.
You are rouge! pourquoi?
really... no reason.
IT'S TIME FOR OUR *FAVOR!*
...
GET IT OVER WITH.

CALL US "Mama, Dear." ❤


WE'LL TURN HER baaack!
HO HO HO.
HO HO HO.
WON'T.

OH, OF *COURSE* SHE'LL SAY IT! WHY-- SHE *PROMISED!*
WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON AGAIN?
THE SIDE THAT WANTS TO *STAY* THIS HEIGHT.
YOU *KNOW,* DON'T YOU?
HOW MUCH SHE'D--
I ALSO THINK...
...YOU COULD.

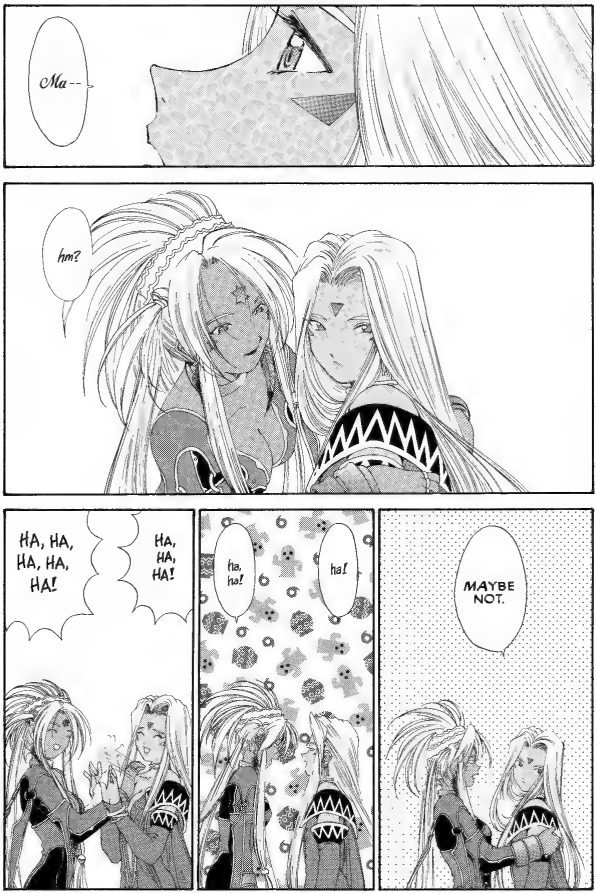
OF COURSE I KNOW.
HUH?!
WHEN SHE MADE THE WORKING--
--I COULDN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF HER.
WHEN SHE WAS SING-ING...
...I FELT ALMOST... AWE.


NO.
BUT... THEN ...?
...I MUSTN'T.
I MUST NOT LOVE MY MOTHER.
BECAUSE...
IF...
IF I EVER DID...

...MY SPIRIT...
...WOULD TIP TO MY DEMON SIDE.

AND I WOULDN'T BE EVEN *HALF* A GODDESS ANYMORE.
AND I WON'T HAVE IT.
URD.
THAT ISN'T REALLY--
SUCH A FUSS.
VERY WELL. YOU MAY *OWE* US--

--our silly baby.
YOU KNOW THAT YOU DON'T *HAVE* TO BE...*SO* MUCH LIKE US.


Ma--
hm?
HA, HA, HA, HA, HA!
HA, HA, HA!
ha, ha!
ha!
MAYBE NOT.

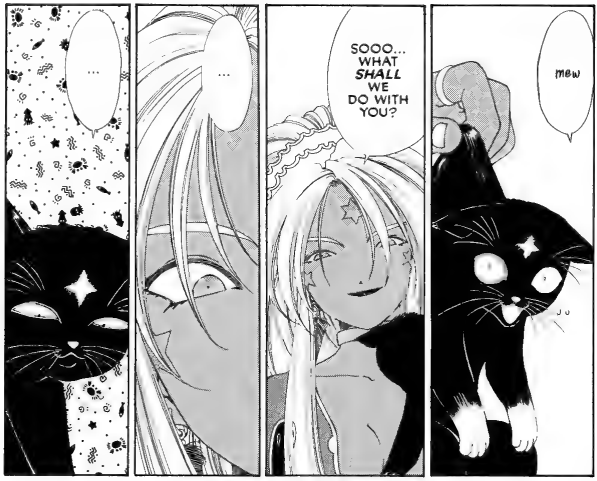
IT SEEMS WE RAISED HER WRONG!
WHEN DID YOU EVER RAISE ME?!
BZAKK!
SKRAKK!

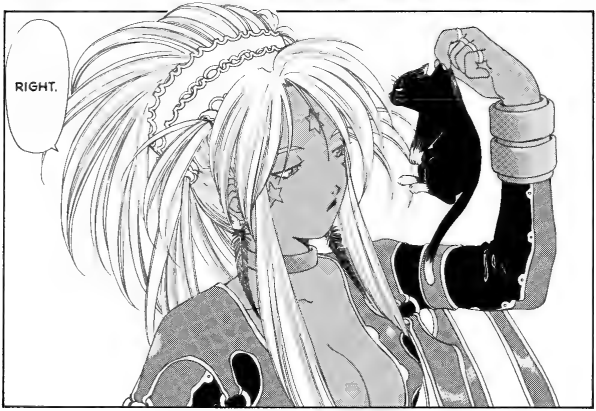
AND WE WILL COLLECT.
THIS IS A LOAN... UNDER-STAND?

COLLECT *WHAT* ...?
NICE *TRY*, DEAR-- BUT THAT WON'T...
HM.
"COL-LECT."

...SHE'S THE VERY *LAST* PERSON I WANT TO MEE--
YANK
TRUE, SHE'S MY ***BOSS-LADY,*** BUT...
YEAH.
...SHE *MUST* BE GONE BY NOW.

VERY LAST?
BUT WE'VE BEEN *PINING* FOR YOU!
MEOW MEOW M- MISTRESS HILD?!
-TALK?
Did he just ..?
WHY, CATS CAN'T TALK!
THE *NERVE*-- CURSING YOURSELF THIS WAY.


...
...
SOOO... WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH YOU?
MEW


RIGHT.

yes'm?
KEIICHI, DEAR ....?
PRESENT!
YOU'RE LEAVING HIM HERE?
PRES-ENT?
OW! OW! OW!
yow!

WHO KNOWS WHAT KIND OF CURSE HE'S GOT ON HIM!?
FORGET IT!
He has a curse...?
CURSE? WHAT CURSE?!
JUST A TEENY ONE.
MOSTLY HARMLESS.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO--

FIND INSTEAD... IT'S GOOD FOR YOU.
GOODNESS. KEIICHI YOU ASK SO MUCH
FWOOH
Duh

BOOM!

DAUGHTER.
...WE'LL SEE YOU.
URD...

"FIND"... FIND WHAT?
Hey! Leeme go... pervert!
NOT FOR A WHILE...
...I HOPE.

?!
HEY!
YES?
uh--
--VELSPER'S A GIRL.

IN HOPES SHE'LL GET INTO TROUBLE.
WHY DID SHE LEAVE HER...?
YOU... DIDN'T KNOW?
I CAN SEE THE SIGN NOW. "FREE KITTENS...
...FREE CURSES."
I DON'T THINK IT GETS MUCH WORSE THAN URD CALLING YOU A TROUBLE-MAKER...

OH MY GODDESS!
U R D

CHAPTER 139

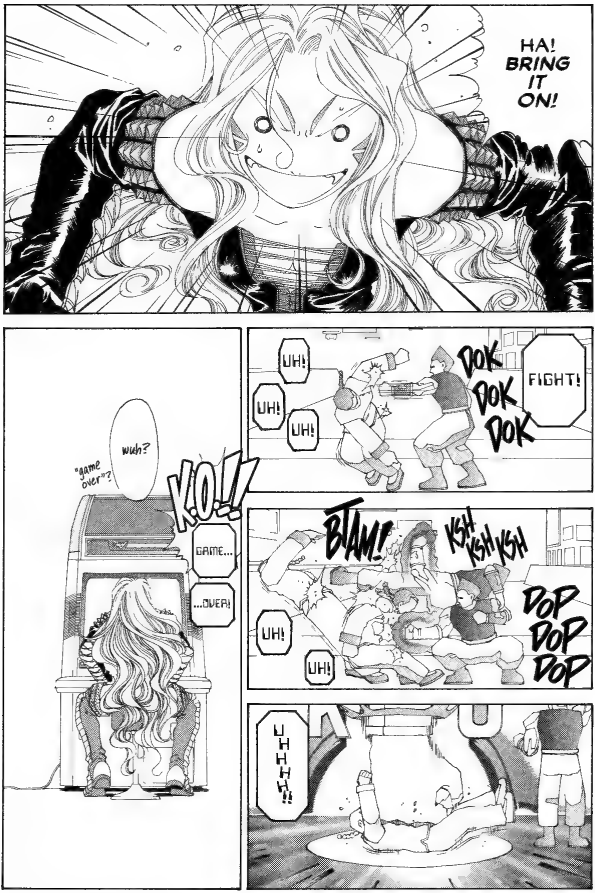
Wicked Game

SHIT
DONK
clank
TAKE THAT!
HE NOT

SCORE!
JUST ONE STAGE TO GO AND I WIN!
CHAK
VERSUS CITY

WE'VE GOT YER NEW *GADGET*, BOSH!
YEAH. HERE WE GO. LEMME AT 'IM...
REALLY? *COOL!* JUST A SEC!
UKI!
STAGE
VS
1P

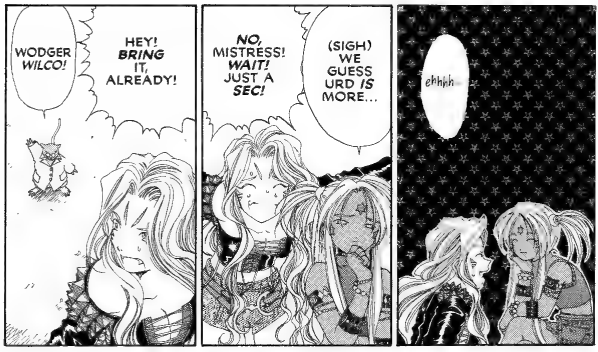
WHOOOOOOSH
NEW CHAL-LENGER!
?
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?
♪♪♪
.... OH! CHAL-LENGER!
CHALLENGER
"I...nao ...cha ...!?"

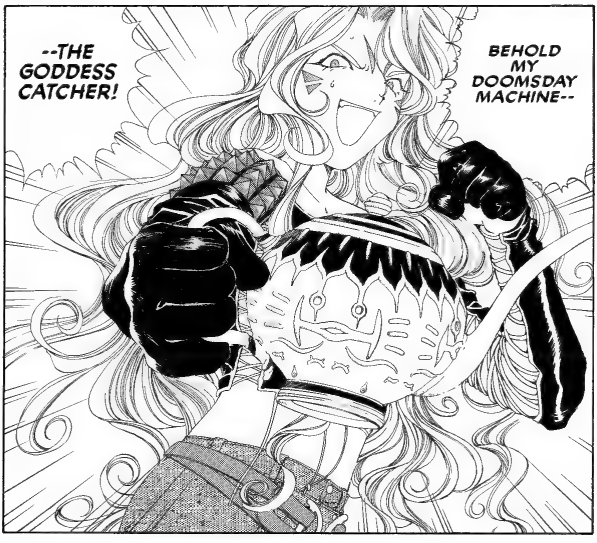

HA! BRING IT ON!
FIGHT!
DOK DOK DOK
UH!
UH!
UH!
BTAM!
KSH KSH KSH
DOP DOP DOP
UH!
UH!
UHHHH!!
K.O!!
GAME...
...OVER!
wuh?
"game over"?

YES?
I WAS ON THE LAST LEVEL!
WHO'S THE DIRTY LITTLE CHEATER--

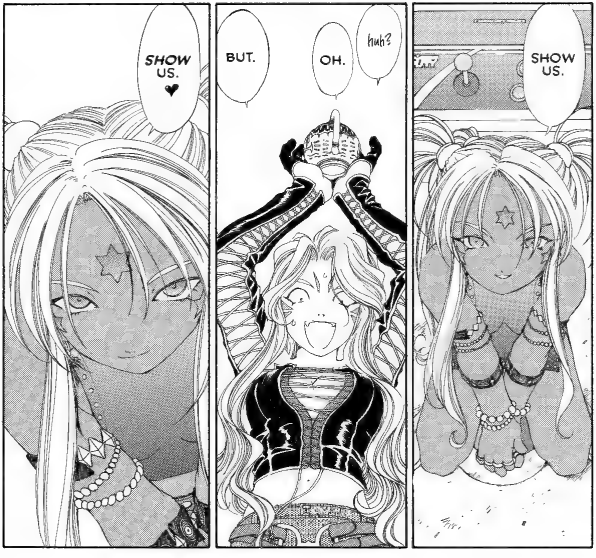
I DIDN'T KNOW! I NEVER IMAGINED!
FORGIVE ME!
MISTRESS HILD?!
ARE YOU SAYING YOUR RATS...
...HAVE MORE IMAGINATION THAN YOU?
YES. EXACTLY.
UM... MISTRESS ...?
OH... THIS?

THIS IS YOUR LORD AT ONE-MILLIONTH POWER... *LITTLE* OLD US.
THE *REST* OF US WENT *HOME*.
buuuh...?
eh...
HOW'S OUR *MARKET SHARE?*
SO, MARA, *DEAR*...

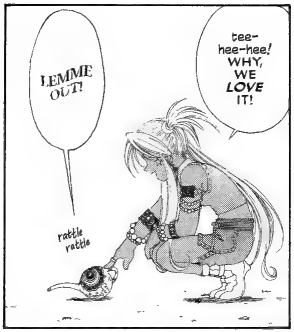

WODGER WILCO!
HEY! BRING IT, ALREADY!
NO, MISTRESS! WAIT! JUST A SEC!
(SIGH) WE GUESS URD IS MORE...
ehhhh


--THE GODDESS CATCHER!
BEHOLD MY DOOMSDAY MACHINE--

NO MORE GODDESSES! WE WIN!
SUCKS 'EM UP, JUST LIKE THAT! NOW HOW MUCH WOULD YOU PAY?

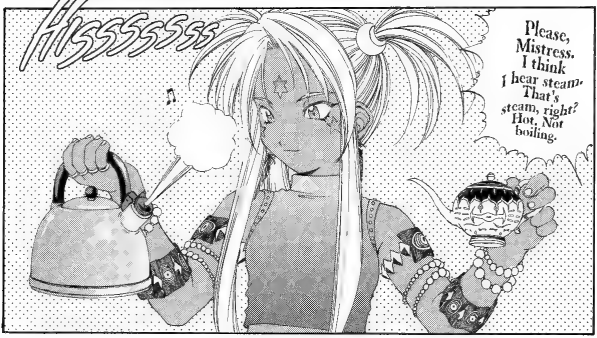

SHOW US. ❤
BUT.
OH.
Huh?
SHOW US.

HER GAZE... COMMANDING ME...
YAH HAH HAH! GLADLY!
YEAH, SO, YOU, UH... YOU PUT YOUR MOUTH...
h-h-here...
THERE? ♡
DON!
GYKK?

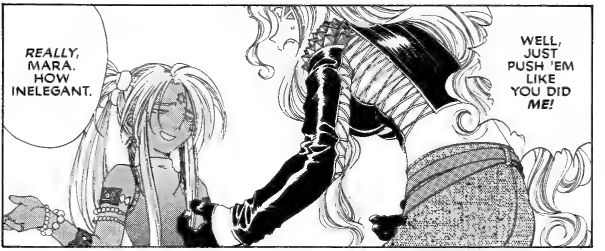

LEMME OUT!
tee-hee-hee! WHY, WE LOVE IT!
rattle rattle

WHATTA WORLD! WHATTA WORLD!

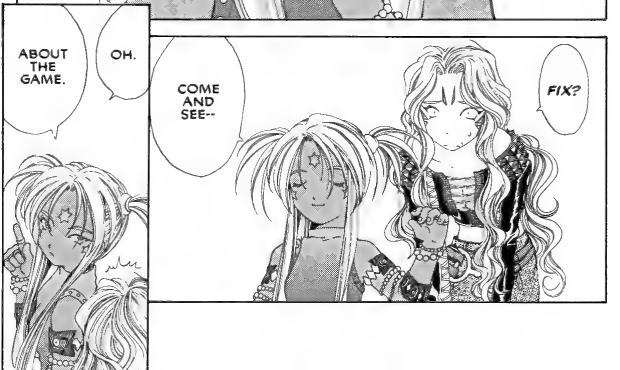
ADD HOT WATER, RUB THREE TIMES...
AND HOW DO WE DO THAT?


HISSSSSSS
Please, Mistress, I think I hear steam. That's steam, right? Hot. Not boiling.

MISTRESS, YOU'RE A *RIOT.*
YOU GOT YOURSELF INTO A *FINE* LITTLE KETTLE.
SO ϶hahé WHAT ϶hahé DO YOU-- ϶hahhé *THINK?*
BUT, OH, IT HAS ONE *FLAW.*
YOUR *MOUTH,* DEAR. MOUTH... LIPS...TONGUE... *THAT'S* THE PROBLEM. *WHO'S* GOING TO KISS A *TEAPOT?*
WHADDYA *MEAN?* YOU JUST *SAW--*

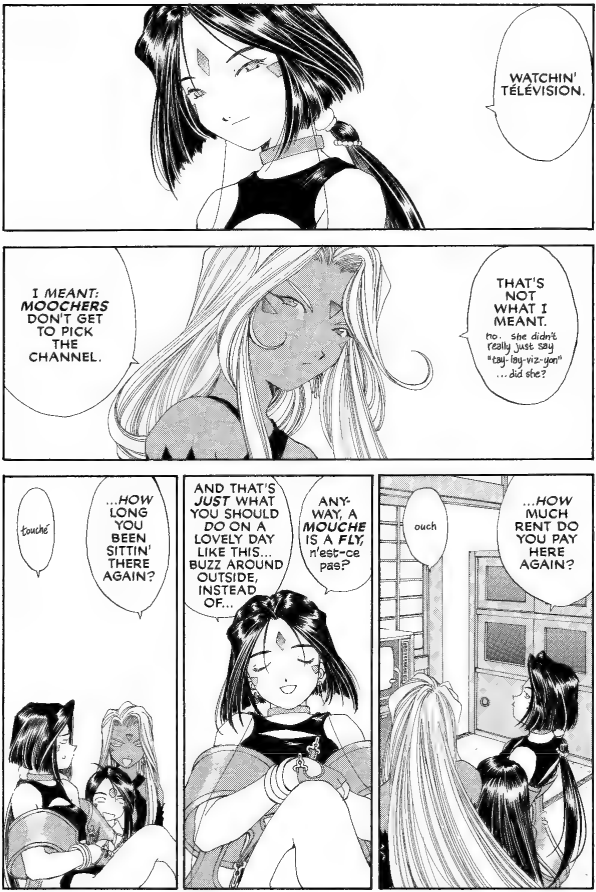

REALLY, MARA. HOW INELEGANT.
WELL, JUST PUSH 'EM LIKE YOU DID ME!

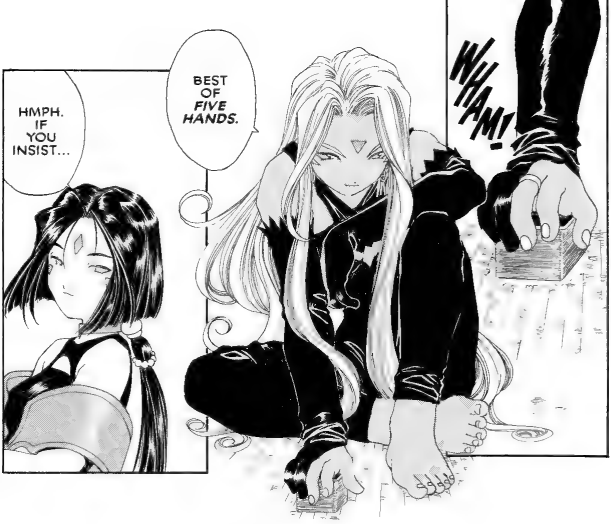
--HAVE ALREADY DEVISED A LITTLE FIX.
AND. SO. WE--


ABOUT THE GAME.
OH.
COME AND SEE--
FIX?

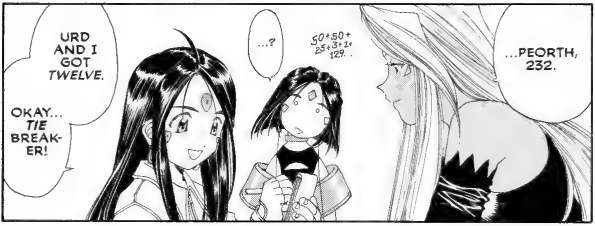
lub-DUP
lub-DUP
YES ...?
SEETHE!
EVEN IF I HADN'T CHEATED... YOU WOULD HAVE NEVER BEATEN ME.

...OUI?
UM...
WHADDYA THINK YOU'RE DOING...?


WATCHIN' TÉLÉVISION.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
no. she didn't really just say "tay-lay-viz-yon" ...did she?
I MEANT: MOOCHERS DON'T GET TO PICK THE CHANNEL.
...HOW MUCH RENT DO YOU PAY HERE AGAIN?
ouch
ANY-WAY, A MOUCHE IS A FLY, n'est-ce pas?
AND THAT'S JUST WHAT YOU SHOULD DO ON A LOVELY DAY LIKE THIS... BUZZ AROUND OUTSIDE, INSTEAD OF...
...HOW LONG YOU BEEN SITTIN' THERE AGAIN?
touché

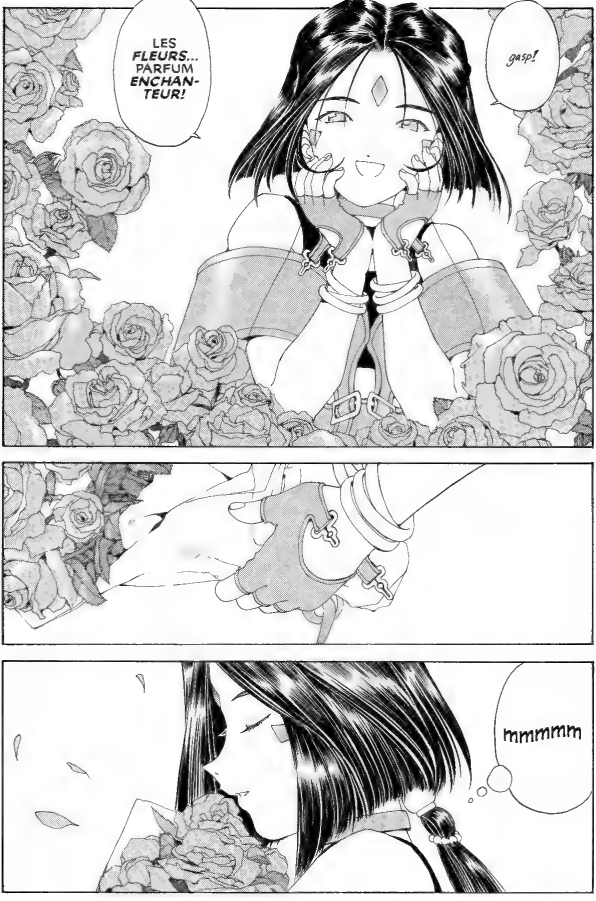

HMPH. IF YOU INSIST...
BEST OF FIVE HANDS.
WHAM!

UNO


URD AND I GOT TWELVE.
OKAY... TIE BREAK-ER!
...?
50+50+25+3+3+129.
...PEORTH, 232.

LIES! FRAUD! CONSPIR-ACY! TRICKERY...
...YOU FORGOT, "SORE LOSERS."
IT'S HER AGE. SHE CAN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT THIS IS AS GOOD AS IT EVER GETS.
GACK!
WRITHE
UHH... YOU KNOW, THAT'S DOUBLE-TEAM-ING...
prise à deux... you dig...

...IF A BIT CHILDISH.
SATIS-FYING...
hmph!
ah?

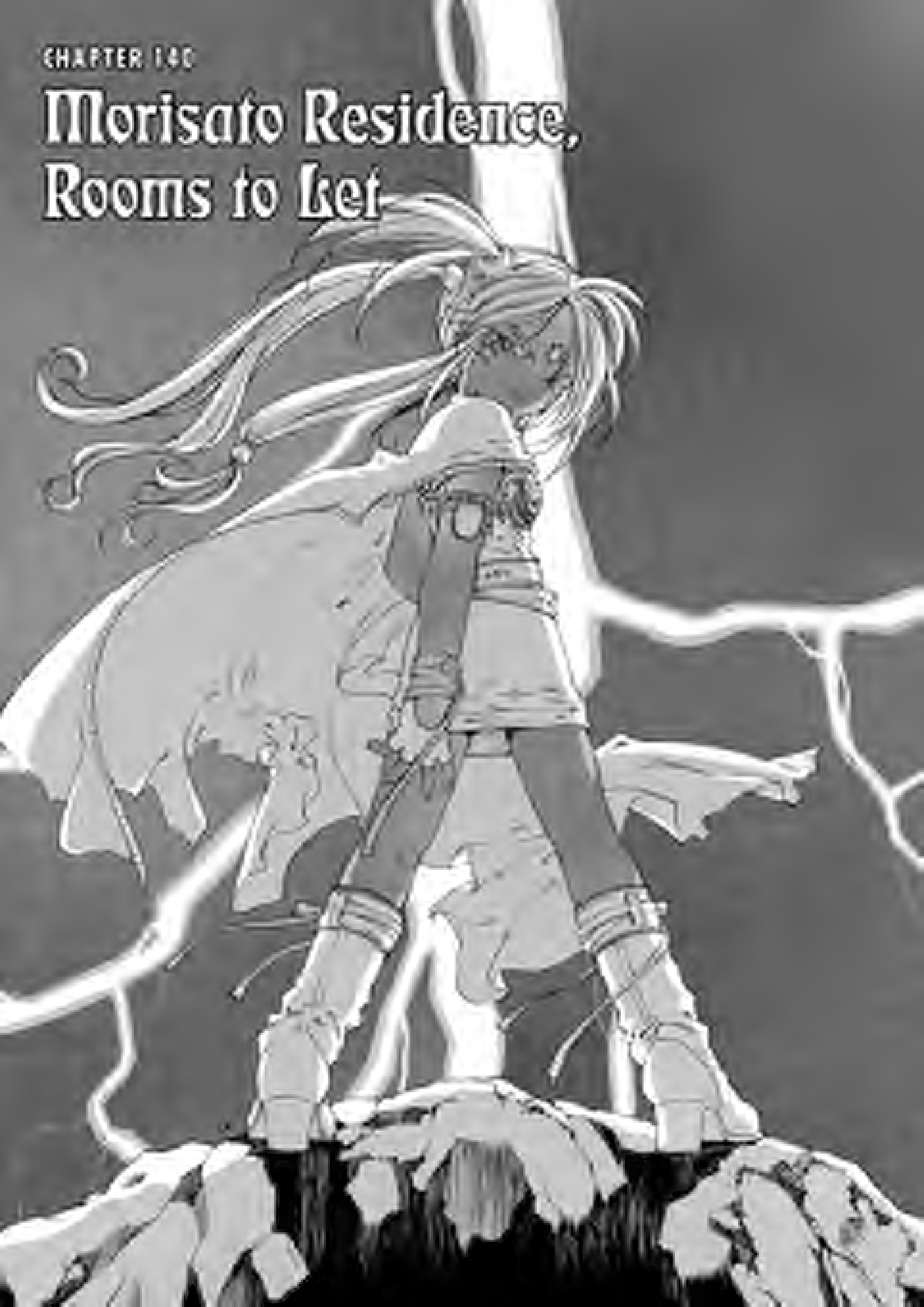

LES FLEURS... PARFUM ENCHANTEUR!
gasp!
mmmmm

Sigh
Splash

OH MY GODDESS!
NIGHTINGALE

CHAPTER 140

Morisato Residence, Rooms to Let

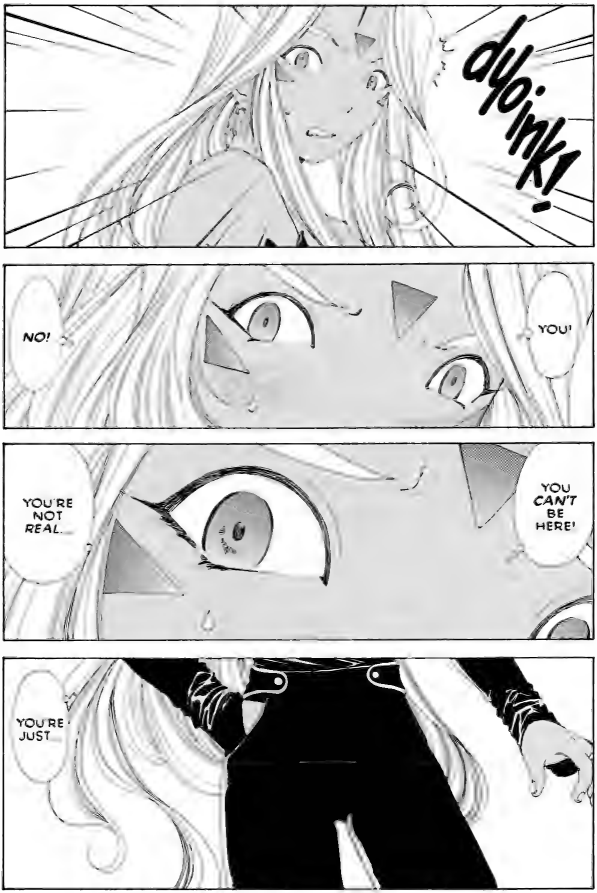


SKIP! SKIPPED *SKIP!*
FWIP FWIP FWIP FWIP
FWIP FWIP FWIP
REVERSED! REVERSED *REVERSED!!*
WILD CARD! *RED!*
UNO
UUUUNO! ♫
FWAP
WILD CARD! DRAW *FOUR,* SUCKER!
Wild
DRAW FOUR
NYEH-HEH-*HEH!*
OH, SKUH-*ULD,* WHERE'S THAT *RED?*
...
3

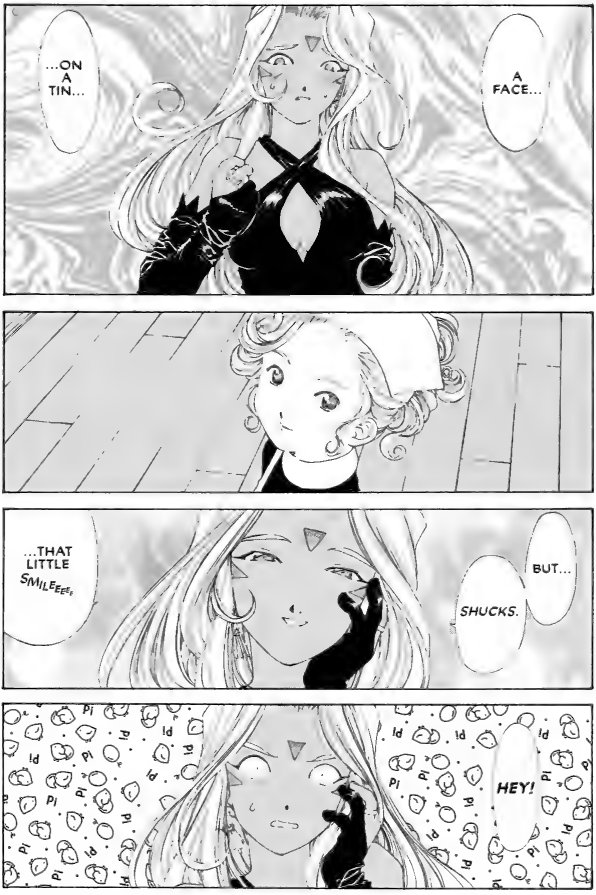
ALMOST FORGOT!
(sob) ooone... ewoo...
PEORTH?
IF YOU GO OUT, PICK UP MY COPY OF HANA TO UME!
PEORTH?
...OKAY?

I AM! I AM GOING TO SQUEAL!
SQUEAL!
YOU ARE SO CUTE I COULD SQUEAL!

mmmm
SKULD! WHILE YOU'RE--

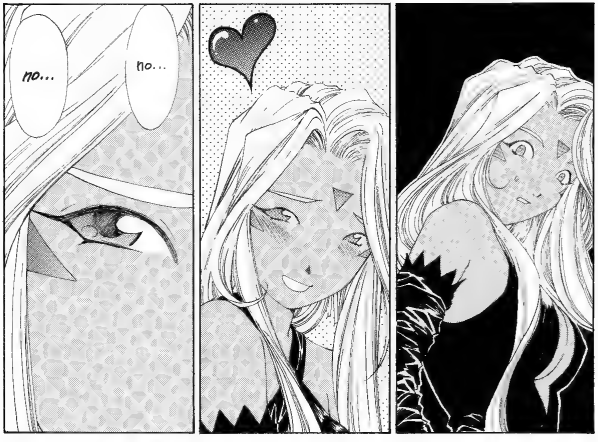

dyoink!
NO!
YOU!
YOU'RE NOT REAL...
YOU CAN'T BE HERE!
YOU'RE JUST...

MENZHOLATUM·MENZHOLATUM·MENZHOLATUM·MENZHOLATUM·


...ON A TIN...
A FACE...
...THAT LITTLE SMILEEEE
BUT... SHUCKS.
HEY!

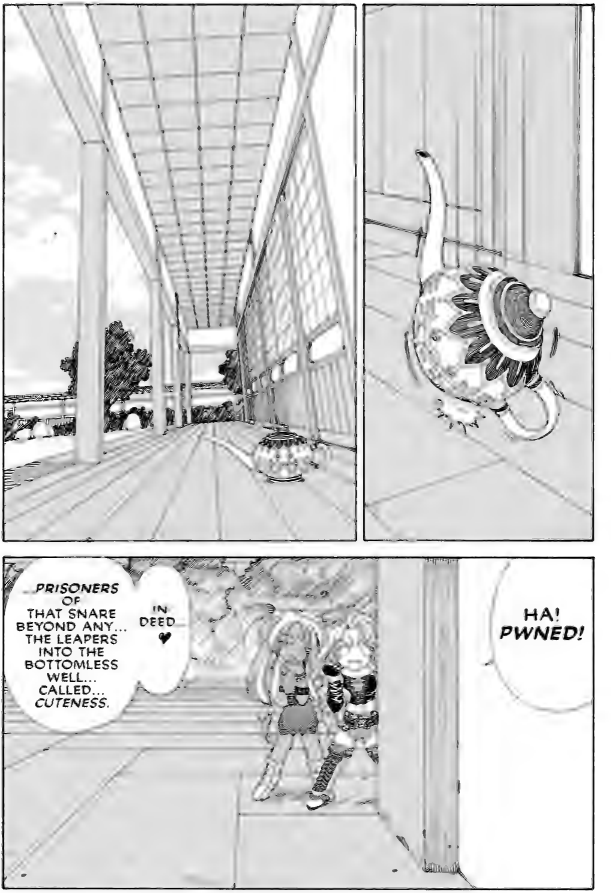
OR WAIT! COULD IT BE...?!
THIS HAS MARA WRITTEN ALL OVER IT!
IT'S A TRAP!
FIGHT IT, URD!
SHE'S NOT REAL!
HILD ?!

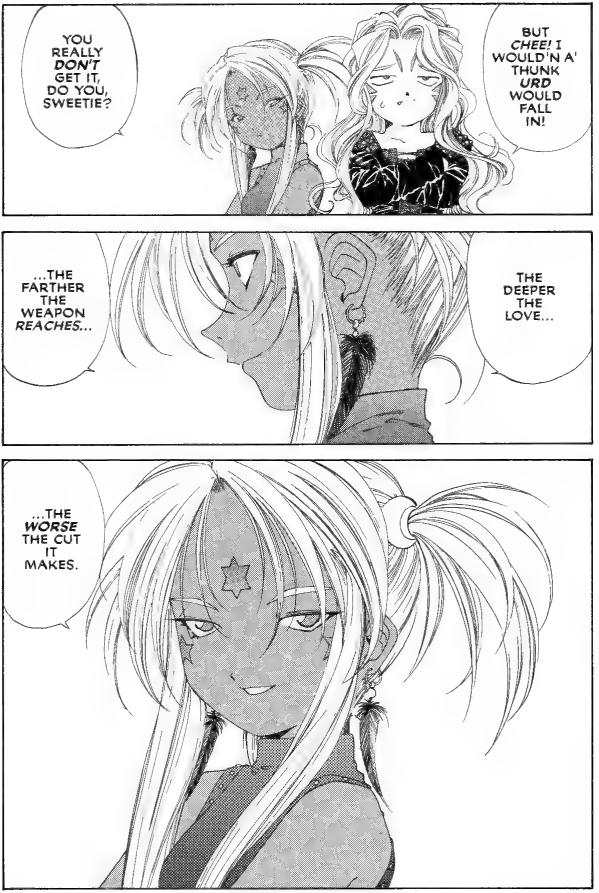
giggle


no...
no...

mm'

NO
Control...
NO
resis-
tance...


PRISONERS OF THAT SNARE BEYOND ANY... THE LEAPERS INTO THE BOTTOMLESS WELL... CALLED... CUTENESS.
INDEED ♥
HA! PWNED!


YOU REALLY *DON'T* GET IT, DO YOU, SWEETIE?
BUT *CHEE!* I WOULD'N A' THUNK *URD* WOULD FALL IN!
...THE FARTHER THE WEAPON *REACHES*...
THE DEEPER THE LOVE...
...THE *WORSE* THE CUT IT MAKES.

FWOOP
HIDE!
uh... say what?
KSHAK
!!
I'M SURE I'VE GOT THAT VALVE!
HANG ON... I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK

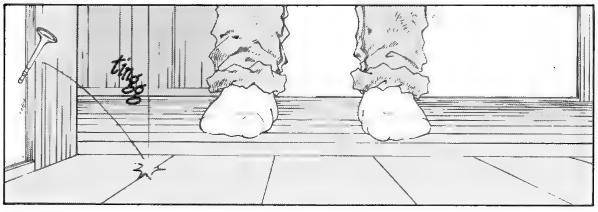
OH, THANK YOU, BELL.
I'LL MAKE SOME TEA.
'PRECIATE THAT, KI!
...

SAY...
?
...IT'S KINDA *QUIET* ALL OF A SUDDEN...
OOOH!!

ON THE CUTEST BIKE!
WITH THE CUTEST CAT... EVER!
OMG! THAT IS THE CUTEST BOY!

WHERE'D SHE GO?
huh?
...THE VALVE ...?
CHIHIRO! I FOUND IT!
CHI--
?!

mmmm
❤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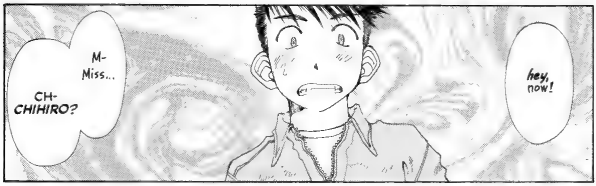
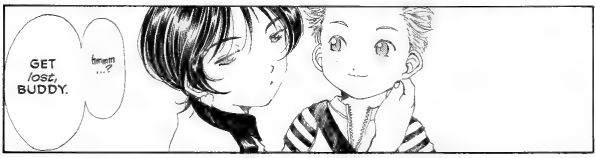
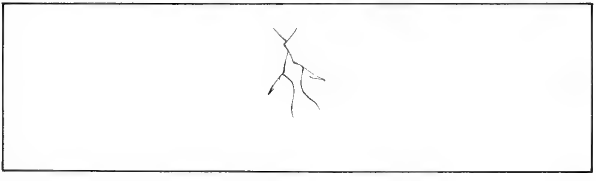
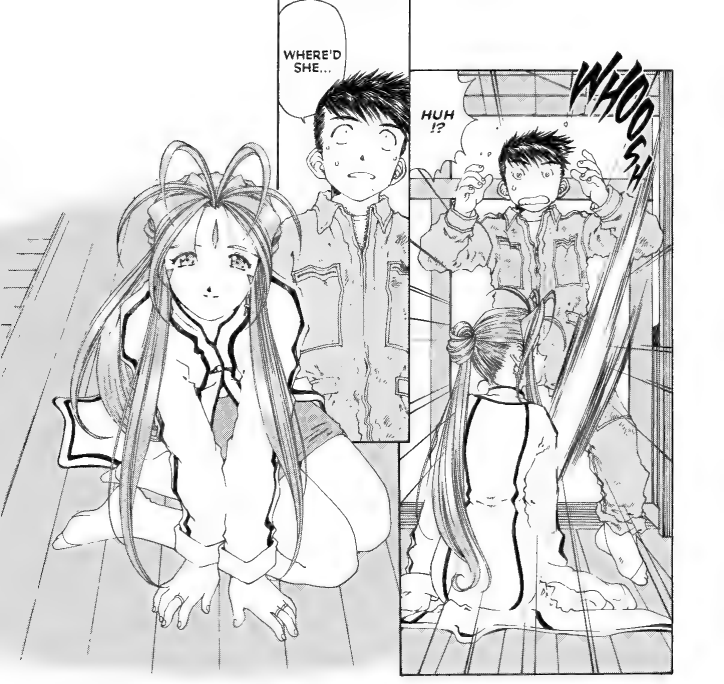

M-
Miss...
CH-
CHIHIRO?
hey,
now!

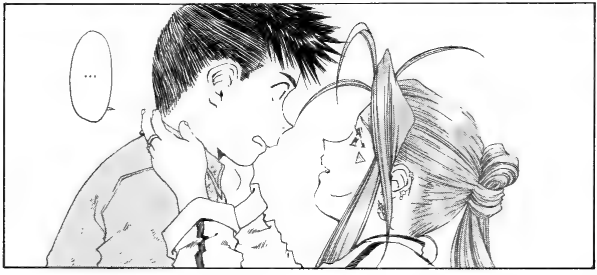

GET
lost,
BUDDY.
hmm
...?

MMMM!
mmmm
BUT
MISS!

mmmm




WHERE'D SHE...
HUH !?
WHOOSH


...

...TOO *WEIRD.*
NOT *LIKE* BELL...
AND WHERE'D CHIHIRO *GO?*
AND WHY WERE SHE AND BELL-DANDY...
I MEAN...

...
...RIGHT...
I DUNNO... THIS DOESN'T SEEM...

CHAPTER 141

Sparkle in Her Eyes

HURK!
BUNT
NEKO...
KNOCK!
MEN! YOU'RE ALL ALIKE!
THAT'S BELL-DANDY, YOU LECHER!
SHE ISN'T THAT KIND OF... OF...

ไม่ต้องมา!

THAT CAN'T *REALLY* HAVE BEEN BELL WHO KISSED... WHO KISSED...
VELSPER, TOO!?
WHOOSH
JEEZ! DO IT, ALREADY!
MM
YER-BOOT!

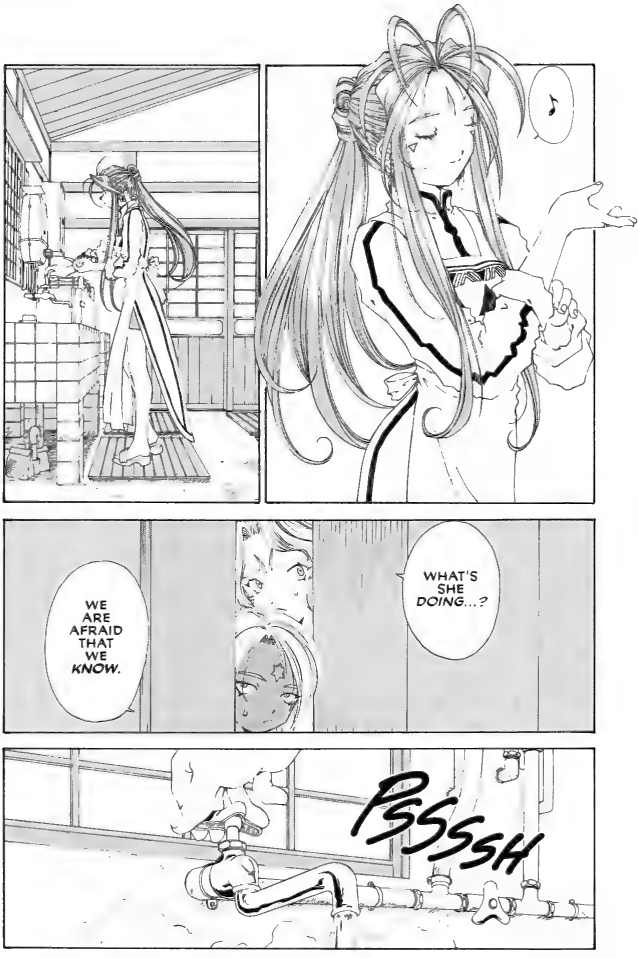
GUESS MY PUSH-'EM PLAN WORKED PRETTY GOOD, HUH?
GRACIOUS... KEIICHI IS JUST TOO NICE.
WHOOSH

"A WATCHED POT NEVER BOILS..."?
MARA, DEAR... DO YOU KNOW THE OLD SAYING?

CHIHIRO ...?
TEA!
uh-oh
HIDE AGAIN!

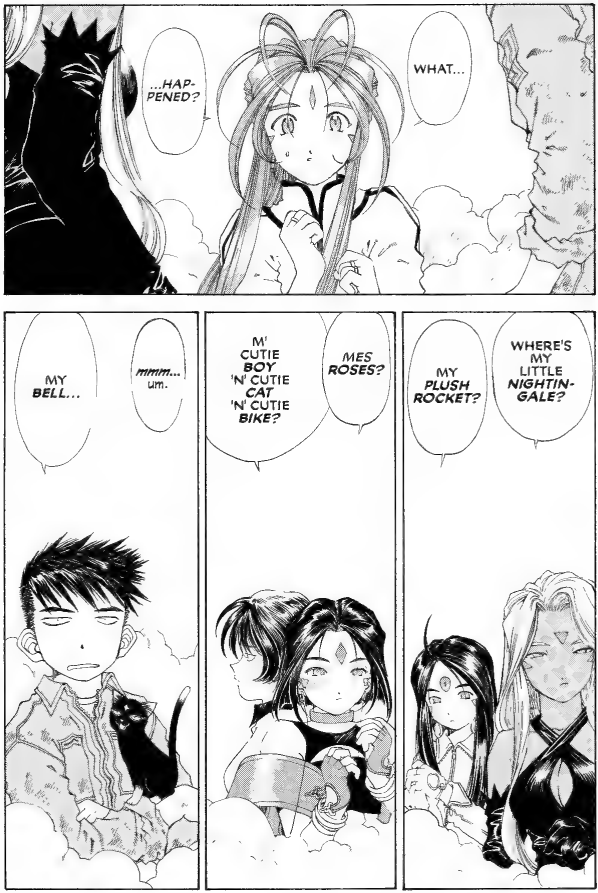
HOW
DARLING!
OH.
YES!
YES!

BELL-DANDY WOULD KISS A TEA-POT!
WHO WOULD KISS A TEAPOT?
?
...
tmi!


♪
WHAT'S SHE DOING...?
WE ARE AFRAID THAT WE KNOW.
PSSSSH

...
...
HOT WATER?
YES... BUT NOT TOO HOT.
I'LL RUB YOU NICE AND CLEAN, OKAY?
splish splish
SPSSH

BOINGONG
HEY.
MEW

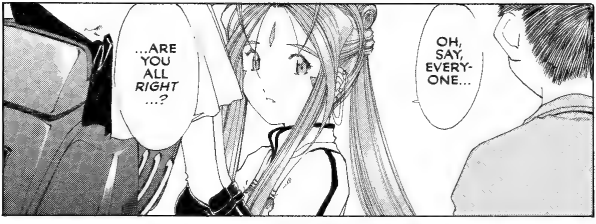

...HAP-PENED?
WHAT...
MY BELL...
mmm...
um.
M' CUTIE BOY 'N' CUTIE CAT 'N' CUTIE BIKE?
MES ROSES?
MY PLUSH ROCKET?
WHERE'S MY LITTLE NIGHTIN-GALE?

BOINGOINGOING

MISTRESS, WHAT HAPPENED?
WE MUST HAVE OVER-LOADED IT.
OVER-LOADED ?!
MARA! HALT! EXPLAIN YOUR-SELF!

Y-YES, MA'AM?!
MARA.
...
...THEN THAT MEANS IT'S GOING TO EXPLODE!
IF IT OVER-LOADS...
gasp!
THANK YOU FOR EXPLAIN-ING!

?


OH, SAY, EVERY-ONE...
...ARE YOU ALL *RIGHT* ...?

IT'S A *DEMON SPELL!*
WE'RE ALL IN GRAVE DANGER!

HEY! GRAVE DANGER!
AWWWW! SHE'S SO CUTE!
?
?
?
?
BELL-DANDY...! LET GO! THROW IT OUTSIDE!

...AND, PARTICULARLY, WHAT I AM ABOUT TO ASK YOU TO DO...
LOOK... AS MUCH AS I DESPISE YOU...
...
?
oi!
YES, KEIICHI?
...BELL-DANDY?

THUNK

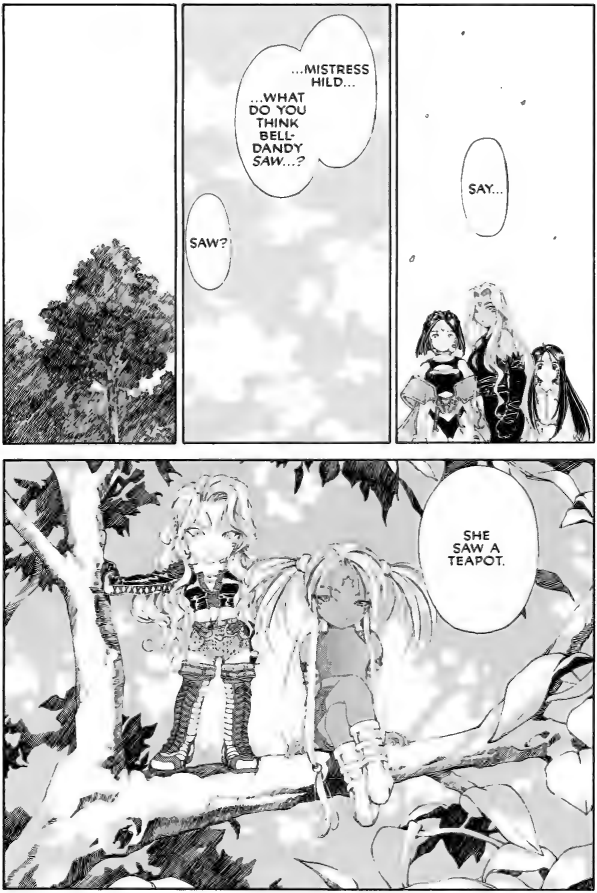
GRAB IT!

ONE!
TWO!

THREE!!

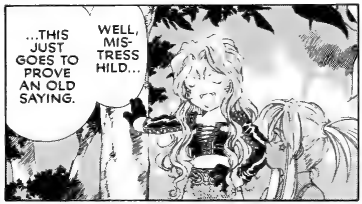
SKULD! USE A BOMB!
I CAN'T!
IT LOOKS LIKE SIS AND A ROCKET!
PEORTH! DO SOME-THING!
I CAN'T! I CAN'T BEAR TO DESTROY THEM!
EVEN IF THEY ARE LES FLEURS DU MAL!
WHICH YOU... DO WE DO HER?
ARE AS IN IT?
YOU STARTED IT!

BEHOLD... THE AWESOME FORCE OF MY--
FSHAA
LET VELSPER'S HIDDEN POWERS BE REVEALED!
NEKO... BEEEAM!
BOM


...MISTRESS HILD...
...WHAT DO YOU THINK BELL-DANDY *SAW*...?
SAW?
SAY...
SHE SAW A TEAPOT.

DEAR BELL LOVES LIFE... AS IT IS.

ARGH!
KZZT!
SPARK
THAT'S THE *POT* CALLING THE KETTLE...


WELL, MISTRESS HILD...
...THIS JUST GOES TO PROVE AN OLD SAYING.

gasp!
THE *MOUTH* IS THE SOURCE OF ALL *TROUBLE* ...?

sleepy pollen
IN A MOMENT, THIS IS ALL GOING TO BE A BAD DREAM.
TRUST ME.
super syringe
Skuld hammer
YOU'VE BEEN ASLEEP, AND--
WOW! CHIHIRO!
AND I SAW EVERY-THING!
MORISATO! I'VE BEEN WIDE AWAKE!
NO, REALLY.

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English-language version
produced by Dark Horse Comics

OH MY GODDESS! Vol. 22
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Published by Dark Horse Manga
A division of Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
10956 SE Main Street
Milwaukie, OR 97222
www.darkhorse.com

To find a comics shop in your area,
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toll-free at 1-888-266-4226

First edition: December 2005
ISBN: 1-59307-400-X

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

Printed in Canada

letters to the ENCHANTRESS

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First of all, thanks to all the readers for the positive reception of *Oh My Goddess!* Vol. 21 (see below). Before we get to the letters, just some quick notes from translator and editor on the volume you just completed (of course, if you're the type who jumps straight to the letters column, you're warned there may be spoilers ^_^).

9.2: In Norse mythology, Nidhogg was the serpent which gnawed the roots of Yggdrasil; to the Norse, the tree which underlaid the world, and, in the *Oh My Goddess!* cosmology, the computer system in the Goddess Realm that maintains and affects the realm of Earth.

18.1: The editor notes that Hild echoes the exact same offer (in Japanese, *sekai no hametsu nozomu nara*) made by Belldandy to Keiichi when she first met him in Vol. 1! This may explain the expression on his face . . .

25.4: Hild is switching from her usual referring to herself in the third person to just saying "I" and "me." This is to underscore there are certain confidences she might only share with Belldandy—whom even she seems to regard with some respect—and to specify that she is speaking about her personal life here, and not speaking corporately about herself as an executive representing the demon world.

36.1: Urd uses the term *mahojin*, which is traditionally translated as "magic square," although the kanji *jin* here (a different *jin* than the kanji meaning "person") by itself means a battle array or position taken up by a military force. The term "working" was used here, which, although somewhat vague, is strongly associated with ceremonial magic.

68.3: In the original Japanese, Hild did in fact ask Urd to say *okaa-san*, which is the normal, polite word for "mother," but Urd calls her *okachimenko* instead, which is an abnormal, impolite word for a woman whose features are aren't very symmetrical.

106.1: Nightingale, the little nurse of "Menzholatum," has her name taken from Florence Nightingale (1820-1910), the founder of modern nursing and a pioneer in epidemiology. Her appearance, however, is a satire of the mascot of "Mentholatum," the aromatic goop rubbed on ill children by generations of mothers to no very clear purpose. Although originally an American company, Mentholatum was bought in the 1970s by

Japan's Rohto Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. More to the point, in 2004 Rohto Mentholatum also bought the Oxy line of skin care products, a purchase which caused their VP of Marketing & Sales to remark, "Mentholatum is acquiring a strong brand with immediate consumer recognition, 90 percent total brand awareness among the US teen target market, and a great tag line." Sounds a lot like manga.

First off, I want to say I love the series, and I love the new format. I'm looking forward to re-collecting the series again as you re-release them in the new right-to-left format.

However, this leads me to a question. The release schedule is one volume every two months, alternating new/old. With 20 volumes currently released, needing to be re-released, this means that it's going to take seven years (20/3 ~= 7) to re-release all the old volumes (thank the goddesses I have all of the old versions.) While this is semi-frustrating, it makes me wonder . . . is there enough material to provide NEW volumes for six more years? Because if there's that kind of assurance of longevity, well, then take as long as you like. The more *OMG!* we can get, the better place this world will be.

Thanks, and keep up
the wonderful work!
Ian Cyr
via e-mail

Thank you very much for your letter. I admit our program, simultaneously going both "backward" and "forward," is a bit awkward, but, of course, back in 1994 when *OMG!* began in English, no one ever imagined that one day the industry standard would become right-to-left.

As for new material, however, the most recent *OMG!* release in Japan is Vol. 31, so at three new volumes (along with three old volumes) per year, that would mean we would reach Vol. 31 in three years, that is, in December 2008. I think. However, a new *OMG!* volume comes out in Japan about every six months. So three years from now (assuming the series keeps going; so far it shows no sign of an imminent conclusion) we'll have another six to release.

This calculation gives us five years' worth of new volumes. At that point, we'd face what has happened to a fair amount of manga in the U.S. with quick releases—you get the initial volumes quickly, but then you reach a point where you've caught up with the Japanese release. So once we reach that theoretical point (and if Fujishima-san is still doing *OMG!*, which is, of course, ultimately up to him) then in December 2010—the year we make contact—we'll have to switch from one new volume every four months to one new volume every six months.

Thanks again, and please be on the lookout for another *OMG!* book we're doing, *Oh My Goddess! Colors*, to be released near the end of this year. It's basically a retrospective of all the *OMG!* we've done this far in the left-to-right edition, and is thus especially meant for the established fan. I personally don't hesitate to recommend our "old" volumes to anyone new to the series who doesn't want to wait for the unflopped re-release; after all, the new editions are based directly on those old editions, with the same basic translation, lettering style, etc.—the main difference, of course, is that we're switching to right-to-left.

Hi,

Thanks for the wonderful *OMG!* series. Finally the series continues. Man that was a long wait until the new TPB came out. Unfortunately wrong-sided now, I was never a big fan of the Japanese way of reading but I guess I'm now in a minority :-(

Anyways I have a question about the series. Since the *OMG!* movie we know that Belldandy and K1 come together, not that there was any doubt they will but it is good to know. What about Skuld and Sentaro? She is my absolute favorite although she is a brat ;-) but she deserves some love too, will they have some adventures together? Sentaro was absent for a while.

MARA!!!!! I love this hideous demon, will she ever strike back again? I hope we get some stories about her relationship with the goddesses.

Thanks for all the answers
Michael Ritter
via e-mail

Although Mr. Ritter doesn't come right out and say it, I gather he is writing in from Germany, judging by e-mail header, which promises "*DSL-Flatrates mit Tempo-Garantie!*" for only "*4,99 Euro/Monat.*" Actually, "Ritter" is an old German word for "Knight," so in theory his name could be "Michael Knight." And everyone knows David Hasselhoff is very big in Germany, so I have to wonder.

Well, actually Sentaro going MIA is an interesting issue; Yoshitoh Asari also brings this up in his *OMG!* fan manga that introduced *Oh My Goddess! Colors*. But Mara's absence is a mystery no longer, as in Vol. 22 she and Hild show they are not to be underestimated due to size. As Bushwick Bill would say, "First of all I laugh."

Dear Mr. Horn,

First, allow me to express my appreciation for your long overdue switch from flipped art to the un-flipped Japanese style. Also matching the Japanese *tankobon* volumes has been long overdue, so I am very grateful you are doing this.

That said, I have a couple of related problems. First, Peorth and French. While I don't yet own the original *tankobon* where Peorth appears, I am fairly sure she doesn't speak French. I believe I read that this was an addition by the English translators to give some flair to the character for which Fujishima-sensei agreed. Is this true?

Whether true or not, I'm led to my second point. If it is okay to have untranslated French in an English-translated manga, why is it not okay to have ALL of the Japanese honorifics included (to include title/honorifics like "senpai'" "sensei." "oneesama," etc.)? I know the translators have worked to accommodate this ("Keiichi-dear" rather than "Keiichi-san" as an example), but this isn't the 80's or the 90's.

If you would follow Del Rey's example and include the honorifics, translator notes, etc., this *Oh My Goddess!* fan would happily re-purchase all of the old volumes from Dark Horse. Not only that, I'd be out there singing your praises everywhere I could.

If adding French to a character gives her flair, how much more would adding honorifics deepen the Western view of the characters?

Thanks for your time.
Earl "AstroNerdBoy" Commander
via e-mail

This letter actually is two letters, as there was a brief exchange of correspondence. The first reply was:

Thank you very much for your letter to "Letters to the Enchantress." I am generally relying on the good judgment of the team which has adapted the manga into English

for eleven years. Specifically, the translator of *OMG!* is no lightweight; she is a columnist for *Newsweek's* Japan bureau—you understand why I would respect her opinions in this matter, including Peorth dropping phrases in French, a style introduced as you describe. My favorite is her exclamation in "Are You Being Served?," "*Ça me soulève le* ***coeur****!*"

OMG! may, in fact, be the longest continuously-published manga in the U.S. (note: as Toshi Yoshida was good enough to point out, it's only #2; *Ranma 1/2* is the longest ^_^), which must, I believe, be counted as some evidence of the quality of its adaptation.

I sincerely believe that the achievements of the Studio Proteus/Dark Horse version of *OMG!* far outweigh any individual criticisms people may have of it. I'm not saying that of my work, but of the work of Studio Proteus, from whom I inherited the title. Flopped or unflopped, I would have no hesitation in recommending the "classic" version to new readers. After all, it is the one which kept people reading for eleven years.

On the other hand, I also believe your point is very well taken about how readership (or the perception of readership) has changed since *OMG!* began. I am in fact restoring a number of specifically Japanese references beginning with the unflopped re-release of Vol. 1, and there will also be a section of notes.

I'm not sure about putting back in *all* the honorifics. As you note, the translator already made an effort to reflect the relations between the characters in their speech (arguably, a task which required more work on her part than simply marking names with "kun," "chan," etc.) and to put them all back in without also rewriting the speech back to its "base state" would, it seems to me, risk muddying the waters rather than making them more clear.

Earl wrote back:

Dear Mr. Horn (or I can call you Carl if you like),

Thanks so much for your rapid response. I'm sorry my own work schedule interfered with my getting back to you, but converting from a contractor to a regular employee at a large company can be an "interesting" experience (worth it in the end, I hope). ^_^;;;

Anyway, if you'll allow me to bore you for a few more minutes, allow me to tell a small story. Back when I found myself unemployed due to WorldCom's activities, I had a lot of free time and investigated how anime was doing in America. You see, back in 1989-1991, I was stationed at Yokota AB in Japan and my roommate/best friend told me that anime/manga was going to be big in the U.S. in ten years. As the year was now 2002, I thought I'd see if his prediction had come true. Lo and behold, he'd been right.

So I thought I'd sample a few small anime titles, one being *Oh My Goddess!* as released by AnimEigo. I watched it in English and loved it. I soon discovered that the OAV was based on a manga. So when I was once again gainfully employed, I purchased all of the then-released graphic novels from Dark Horse. Again, I loved it.

As time went on and I began sampling the Japanese versions (with subtitles) of anime, I discovered (thanks in great part to FUNimation) how changed an English version could be over the original script. I was not pleased by this. Somewhere during this time, I also became annoyed with the flipping of the art in the manga *Oh My Goddess!*, especially when it became so very obvious (Skuld's or Urd's hair-part flipping sides on different pages).

It was then that I did some investigation and discovered things like how the characters really addressed each other (Japanese honorifics) and the like. After that, I became a

strong anti-domestication person, desirous to have the Japanese honorifics left in the translations (subtitles for anime, text for manga) as well as certain Japanese cultural things (to be fair, it wasn't just *Oh My Goddess!* that led me to this on the anime side, but it was on the manga side).

See, I'm in favor OF re-writing the text. After all, if some of the original Japanese references are being placed back in, why not re-write the script to include the honorifics? To me it seems simple, yet I know that this would cost a little extra money. To me, it would be money well-spent because the "hardcore" fans like myself would not only repurchase the series, but would be out there telling everyone they SHOULD re-purchase the series. I do this for FUNimation and their taking over the license to the Slayers TV series (all three). ^_^

Anyway, I don't want to harp so I'll wrap this up now. I do appreciate your consideration of these matters and listening to a hardcore (and money-spending) fan rant a bit.

Earl

Yokota AB, of course, was the setting of Hiroyuki Kitakubo's amazing film *Blood: The Last Vampire*. It's good to know what went down there back in 1966 didn't put them off anime. I should note that in the days before either the Web or a commercial anime home video industry in the U.S. (which was only getting started here in 1989), fans stationed at bases in Japan were an important source of information, tapes, and goods on anime. We never asked what they handed off from the PX in exchange.

Of course, I look at the Japanese originals in editing the unflopped old versions, so I can note something about how people are speaking. "San," being relatively neutral, will probably remain "invisible," but you'll see some chans in Vol. 1 and we'll bust with a kun in Vol. 2. The general *principle* of restoring Japanese cultural references will be very much there, however, both in the script and in the notes section.

As you say, these days, people want to know about these things, although, again, I would argue that Studio Proteus's adaptations were optimal for *OMG!*'s original market (monthly comics readers) and it's precisely because they built such an audience for this title that I now have the opportunity to go back and comment on such original Japanese references.

Now, it may *sound* completely obvious that the goal of re-releasing the "old" *OMG!* volumes is to get previous fans to buy them a second time, but it actually surprised me when people brought this up. In my own mind, because people now reading *OMG!* Vol. 22 presumably got this far with the flopped versions, the unflopped *OMG!* Vol. 1 is instead directed at the brand-new reader, the person in the bookstores (remember *OMG!* began here in the comics stores) who wants to discover the story for the first time.

Of course, if you *want* to buy it, cool, and hopefully you'll find the new material there (cover, interior color pages, notes section, Fujishima's introduction) to be worth your while. But this honestly wasn't intended to get established readers to buy something twice. Instead I want a bunch of new *OMG!* fans to join the throng, fans who will now realize how much has been ripped off since 1989 from Fujishima-san ^_^

Hi there Enchantress!

This is Alicia. I love the *Oh/Ah! My Goddess* comic books! I love the story and the characters that are thought up. It all seems to fall together into a real lifestyle. I can relate to many things I've read in these amazing stories it seems. And all my friends that know of the series have told me I kinda look like and act like Belldandy. Which is

really awesome because she is my favorite character!

I would love to learn more about the one who created my favorite series! And I think Belldandy's angel's name should be Holy Bell instead of Blessed Bell. I love both names but I think Holy Bell seems to go together better with Belldandy. I'm not exactly sure why at the moment but yeah. Well, I hope to see more great things happening with the series. Which I know there will be. I have seen and read nothing that I thought was bad for a second! If that made any sense.

Sincerely,
Alicia aka Ashiyama
Ashiyama1@aol.com

Yeah, that made sense ^_^ You wouldn't happen to be the person who cos-played as Bell for Hidenori Matsubara (character designer of the three *OMG!* anime versions) at Anime Central? He really liked that fan. Belldandy is pretty difficult to equal, as everyone in the *Oh My Goddess!* story is always discovering.

If you do check out the unflopped re-release of *Oh My Goddess!* Vol. 1 (which should be out by the time you read this), we've included Kosuke Fujishima's original messages to readers from that time, to show what was on his mind as the story developed. By the way, Belldandy's angel will definitely be called Holy Bell. Just in time for Christmas!

Mr. Horn,

First of all, I would like to say that I'm glad that you're the new editor for *Oh My Goddess!* It's rare for me to see an editor who puts so much into his work, because I know from word of mouth that you're working very hard to fix mistakes and trying to get everything in order. I'm sure others have contacted you about the use of Peorth's French, Urd referring to Hild as "mother," and a few other things in Vol. 21. I trust that you will be able to handle things better with time, especially since you're so willingly working with the fans.

I wish you the best of luck with this series, and I do hope that you stay with it. I can't say I understand how hard it is, but I do respect that you're trying very hard.

If this gets printed, feel free to print my e-mail/website.

Jonathan Sieng Chua
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Thank you for your support ^_^. I do have my own way of going about things, which may not be the way others would.

As I say, this is only the Dark Horse version of *Oh My Goddess!*. It happens to also be the officially licensed English version, and I think it's a pretty good one—but I would never say that this version is the only way it could be done. That's a silly thing to say, especially in this day and age, and I think you all know what I'm talking about. I do try to explain some of the reasoning behind the adaptation process, however. Please keep writing—and don't forget to cough up some of that fan art.

STOP! This is the back of the book!

This manga collection is translated into English, but arranged in right-to-left reading format to maintain the artwork's visual orientation as originally drawn and published in Japan. If you've never read comics this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right-hand corner, and will read each word balloon and panel moving right-to-left. It may take a little getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Have fun! If this is the millionth manga you've read this way, never mind.

Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ 22

AFTER HER DEMONIC MOTHER

Hild lays down the condition for changing Peorth back to normal, Urd tells Mom that *she* can go back to Hell, but Urd sure isn't coming along. Hild's counter-offer promises to combine the magic-circle powers of herself, Belldandy, Skuld, and Urd to restore Peorth, in exchange for a promise for Urd to do . . . well, she'll tell Urd *after* the ritual! But has Peorth started a trend for tinyness? Things take a sudden turn for the *chibi* when both Hild and a certain blonde demon demonstrate great evil comes in small packages!

Dark Horse continues *Oh My Goddess!*, now in the much-requested, inexpensive right-to-left format!

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